

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed March 30, 2006, referring to the final rejection of claims, the Examiner states that the Neogi reference was "used only to teach that the addition of small amounts of blue colorant to improve whiteness appearance is known in papermaking. The addition of blue dye to pulp to offset yellowness is well known in the industry and would be obvious to one skilled in the art."

At [0004], the Neogi references states:

... [t]he addition of small amounts of blue colorant to improve whiteness appearance is known in other fields, such as papermaking. However, the practice is unknown to the fluff pulp community. The addition of colorant to fluff pulp to improve its whiteness properties is novel to the industry.

First, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, the Declaration of Kathy A. Welch removes the Neogi reference and its teachings since it antedates Neogi.

Second, although the addition of colorant is known in papermaking, the Neogi reference makes clear that the addition of colorant to fluff pulp to improve whiteness is novel. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's statement, the addition of blue dye to pulp to offset yellowness is not well known in the industry. Because the addition of colorant to fluff pulp to improve whiteness is novel and is not well known, applicants respectfully submit that the addition of blue dye to pulp to offset yellowness would not be obvious to one skilled in the art.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the previously filed Response, the Declaration of Kathy A. Welch, and the foregoing remarks, applicants believe that Claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' attorney at 206.695.1755.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Group Art Unit 1731, Examiner D.R. Cordray, at facsimile number 571-273-8300 on April 6, 2006.

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